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**Subject:** [External] Analysis of campaign finance reports: Ag, environmental interests spent generously in second half of 2017

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# NC POLICY WATCH

Stories & voices  
that **matter.**

## Analysis of campaign finance reports: Ag, environmental interests spent generously in second half of 2017

By [Lisa Sorg](#)

Dominion Energy's political action committee contributed more than \$31,000 to state lawmakers in the final six months of 2017, most of it within 10 days of an override vote on Senate Bill 16.

That measure, "[Business Regulatory Reform Act of 2017](#)," contained a key provision for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The omnibus bill allows out-of-state companies, like Virginia-based Dominion, to use eminent domain to secure land to build pipelines.

Sponsored by Senators Andy Wells, Tamara Barringer and Warren Daniel, the bill included other controversial proposals relaxing regulations on landfills and mining

Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed SB 16 on Aug. 14. On Sept. 25, Dominion spread \$18,300 among 21 lawmakers, plus Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, who would have voted had there been a tie. And on Oct. 5, both chambers overrode the veto without the need for Forest's vote.

The figures were released as part of the required [year-end campaign finance reports](#), due last Friday.

This degree of corporate largesse is not unusual, and lawmakers consistently claim their votes are not influenced by campaign contributions. However, for a non-election year, many legislators on environmental committees raised significant sums.

Other than House and Senate leadership, Dominion contributed most of its money to lawmakers on key environmental committees. Dominion, though, is not the only corporate interest throwing money at legislators. [\[Read more...\]](#)

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